

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument comprising: a first portion substantially in the form of a stem and a second portion, the first and second portions being releasably connected together by means of cooperating first and second formations, the first formation having a first ramp surface and being attached to the first portion, the second formation comprising a resilient arm which is continuously and integrally formed with the second portion and has a second ramp surface and engages the ~~first formation on the first portion~~, the second portion being at least partially bifurcated, the resilient arm forming a fork of the bifurcated part of the second portion, and the first formation being received between the resilient arm and another fork of the bifurcated part of the second portion, wherein the resilient arm moves from a first position when the first and second ramp surfaces initially engage, through a range of second positions corresponding to the second ramp surface slidably and progressively ramping along the first ramp surface, to a third position wherein the second ramp surface clears the first ramp surface and drops into a ridge provided on the first formation such that the first formation is received and firmly connected between the resilient arm and the other fork of the bifurcated part of the second portion.

2.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument comprising:

a first portion and a second portion selectively moveable between connected and disconnected positions, the first and second portions including first and second formations, respectively, the first formation having a first sloping leading surface and an adjacent ridge, the second formation having a complementary second sloping leading surface; and

wherein the second formation includes a resilient arm which is continuously and integrally formed with the second portion and offset from a body portion of the second portion, the resilient arm selectively moveable between an engaged position with the first formation in the connected position and a disengaged position with the first formation in the disconnected position, wherein the resilient arm moves from a first position when the first and second sloping leading surfaces initially engage, through a range of second positions corresponding to the second sloping leading surface slidably and progressively ramping along the first sloping leading surface, to a third position wherein the second sloping leading surface clears the first sloping leading surface and drops into the ridge provided on the first formation such that the first formation is received and firmly connected between the resilient arm and the other fork of the bifurcated part of the second portion in the connected position.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 18, wherein the first formation is integrally formed with the first portion.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 18, wherein the first formation defines one of a recess and a projection.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 20, wherein the one of the recess and the projection is defined on the resilient arm and engages the first formation.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 22, wherein the one of the recess and projection is formed at a free end of the resilient arm.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 23, wherein the second portion is at least partially bifurcated.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 24, wherein the resilient arm forms a fork of the bifurcated part of the second portion.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 25, wherein the first formation is received between forks of the bifurcated part of the second portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 25, wherein the first portion is provided with a first planar guide surface which engages and slidably traverses along a second planar guide surface on the second portion during movement of the first and second portions between the connected and disconnected positions.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 27, further comprising an abutment which limits the relative movement between the first and second portions, the first formation engaging the abutment in the connected position.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 28, further comprising a plurality of second portions wherein the first portion is adapted to be connected, one at a time, to each of the plurality of alternative second portions.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 28, in which the first portion comprises a surgical tool.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 30, wherein the first portion comprises one of a drill bit, a broach, a file and a rasp.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 31, wherein the first formation comprises an annular ridge formed around a circumference of the surgical tool.

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 32, wherein the resilient arm is arcuate and curves at least partially around the circumference of the surgical tool.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 33, wherein the second portion is a handle.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 33, wherein the second portion comprises an adaptor to which a femoral head can be connected.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~surgical device~~ hip stem instrument of claim 35, wherein a plurality of adaptors of different geometries are provided for attachment to the first portion.

37. (Withdrawn) A method for attaching a first implant portion to a second implant portions comprising:

providing a femoral stem having a first formation and a first planar guide surface arranged on a proximal portion thereof;

advancing an adapter along the first planar guide surface, the adapter including a second formation; and

selectively connecting the first and second formations in an engaged position.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein advancing the adapter comprises:

slidably advancing a second guide surface defined on the adapter along the first guide surface.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein selectively connecting the first and second formations comprises:

slidably advancing a projection defined on the second formation along a leading surface defined on the first formation.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein slidably advancing the projection comprises:

resiliently deflecting the second formation in a direction generally away from the first guide surface.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 40, further comprising:
slidably advancing the adapter along the first surface whereby the projection locates into a ridge defined on the femoral stem in the engaged position.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41, further comprising
slidably advancing the adapter along the first surface until an abutment defined on the adapter engages the first formation.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37, wherein the first guide surface and the second guide surface are both planar.

44. (Withdrawn) A surgical system comprising:

a stem having a longitudinal portion including a distal and proximal end, the proximal end defining a first guide surface and a first formation;

an adapter having a second guide surface and a second formation;

a spherical head defining a socket selectively connected to a free end of the adapter; and

wherein the first formation is operable to securably engage the second formation upon slidable communication of the first and second planar guide surfaces from a disengaged position to an engaged position.

45. (Withdrawn) The surgical system of claim 44, wherein the second formation defines a resilient arm adapted to slidably engage a leading surface defined on the first projection.

46. (Withdrawn) The surgical system of claim 45, wherein the second portion nests in a ridge defined to the first formation in the engaged position.

47. (Withdrawn) The surgical system of claim 46, further comprising a plurality of spherical heads having a respective plurality of sockets each defining a distinct depth and wherein each of the plurality of spherical heads are adapted to be connected to the free end.

48. (Withdrawn) The surgical system of claim 44, wherein the first guide surface and the second guide surface are both planar.

49. (New) The hip stem instrument of claim 1 wherein the first portion has a first planar guide surface and the second portion has a second planar guide surface, wherein the first and second planar guide surfaces slidably engage while the resilient arm moves through the first, second and third positions.

50. (New) The hip stem instrument of claim 49 wherein the first planar guide surface is substantially transverse to a longitudinally axis of the first portion.